

and his relatives were royally attired.¹ The Republicans were much annoyed by this display. The report of the votes was read, the electors, with their usual promptitude, swore to the Additional Act, the hollow trumpets brayed after them, and the cannon thundered. The popular acclamations, however, were few and cold. Napoleon, felt he was acting as in a melodrama on the stage, and he showed little interest — no enthusiasm, until he came to that part of the ceremonies in which he had to distribute the eagles to the newly raised troops. Then his brow expanded, his eye beamed gloriously, and his voice became firm and sonorous. On the whole, the Parisians considered the field of May *une pi^ce tombee* (an unsuccessful play). Some few thought it an imposing spectacle, but many more considered it a ridiculous exhibition. Opera-dancers and fencing-masters figured in the procession.

On the following day (the 2d of June) Napoleon gave a second *fete* to the deputies of the army and the electors of the departments, who met in the spacious galleries of the Louvre. More eagles were distributed, and those who received them from the hands of the Emperor swore, as a matter of course, to defend them and him to the death. The quantity of oath-taking, and of tricking and turning of all kinds, that took place at Paris between Bonaparte's return in March and the return of the Bourbons in July, was prodigious almost beyond example. The journalists (as became their calling) particularly distinguished themselves. The following fact, though well known, merits repeating. One of the gentlemen of the press, in announcing the escape from Elba, said, "A report is circulated that the brigand of Corsica has landed at Cannes," A few days after the same man wrote, "Do you

¹ The question of the dress of the Emperor's brothers had given me no trouble. Lueien (tome iii. p. 2(15) says, "The dresses for the ceremony of the Chani|>-de«Mai were settled. I did not wish to appear in white, but hi the drem of the National Guard. The Emperor answered me with a sneer. *Yen, no that you, jib a National Guard, may make more effect than I iiiH Emperor." I decided to be dressed in white. This decision was unlucky. The white dresses worn by the three brothers of the Emperor, denoted a prerogative not sanctioned by the nation, because, except Prince Joseph, whose right of suecession was recognized, the other Vrinees (Lucien and Jerome) had not been chosen for the hereditary line. These Imperial candidates produced a particularly bad effect, and offended the eye" (*Mwt*, tome iii. p. 432).